

Fort Moultrie

A unit of Fort Sumter National Monument

Long Range Interpretive Plan

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Superintendent

Date

CONTENTS

Introduction

Part 1. Foundation

Purpose and Significance

Themes

Management Goals

Desired Visitor Experience

Issues and Influences Affecting Interpretation

Visitor Profiles

Part 2. Future Interpretive Program

Personal Services

Non-personal Services

Partnerships

Library and Collection needs

Staffing Needs

Interpretive Program Costs

Implementation Plan

Planning Team

Introduction

Interpretation is about choices. Individuals choose what stories to tell, whom to tell them to and how to tell them. The choices are rarely easy.

The Fort Sumter Visitor Services Division drafted this Long Range Interpretive Plan to guide interpretive services, including exhibits, waysides and presentations for the four sites administered by the National Park Service in the Charleston area. The sites include: Fort Sumter National Monument, the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center and ferry terminal at Liberty Square in downtown Charleston, Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site in Mt. Pleasant.

This action plan provides a vision for the future of interpretation and education. The projected life span of this document is five to ten years. It addresses both personal services and media, and is prepared by the park staff and park partners/community with a skilled facilitator in interpretive and education planning. It also provides the foundation elements for the Annual Implementation Plan and should be consistent with other current planning documents

Staff members gathered on St. Helena Island in South Carolina in 1999 to begin talking about interpretation at the sites. The process evolved over the next four years as new exhibits and programs were planned for Fort Moultrie, Fort Sumter and Charles Pinckney. In addition, Liberty Square was designed to be a gateway to the South Carolina lowcountry history and the sites beyond Charleston. Significant moments in American history are showcased at places now under the care of the National Park Service.

The exhibit at Liberty Square was the result of social and military historians wrestling with issues of Interpretation. Beginning in 1990 the staff questioned if a balanced story of why the Civil War started in Charleston was being told. The question remains more than ten years later after many discussions of what should be included and what should be left out. The text and graphics left out could create another exhibit. Liberty Square exhibits attempts to answer three questions outlined in the 1990 interpretive perspective: 1. Why did the war start in Charleston, SC? 2. What will the visitor see while out at Fort Sumter? 3. What were the causes of the Civil War?

Social and military historians were selected to write text, argue context and find graphics to illustrate the diverse history. The exhibits were designed to have visitors draw their own conclusions and to seek answers. Comments commending and condemning the exhibits have been received. Some say we have presented a balanced story, others have told us our perceptions are slanted, and then some feel we missed our opportunity to glorify the battles.

Many opinions were considered including Historian Gaines Foster quoted in the 2000 NPS Report to Congress:

The rapid healing of national divisions and damaged southern self-image... came at the cost of deriving little insight or wisdom from the past. Rather than looking at the war as a tragic failure and trying to understand it or even condemn it, Americans, North and South chose to view it as a glorious time to be celebrated. Most ignored the fact that the nation failed to resolve the debate over the nature of the Union and to eliminate the contradictions between its equalitarian ideals and the institution of slavery without resorting to a bloody civil war. Instead, they celebrated the War's triumphant nationalism and martial glory.¹

Change is difficult. Even for the dedicated staff assembled at Fort Sumter, changing Civil War interpretation is difficult. Each of us brings to the table a particular set of experiences, education and cultural background depending on to whom we were born, where we lived and how we were educated. Much has been done over the past ten years to implement an expanded interpretive program. It has involved increasing staff understanding and perception and broadening our community partnerships. The staff has participated in conferences, training programs, dedications, special resource studies, sensitivity sessions, and diverse cultural events to help with the transition.

The Civil War still molds and shapes opinions about people and sections of the country. Its influence reigns over the country as an unseen spirit. The War was not an isolated event that occurred 140 years ago and is now forgotten. The politics of the war and its repercussions remain with us and influence us everyday from the President to the homeless drug addict sleeping on a park bench. It is time for us to understand and place in perspective the American Civil War.

National Park Service interpretation at Fort Sumter began during a period of major civil strife and demonstration. Fifty years hence, the interpretation at Fort Sumter is clearly articulating the causes of the war in an open forum never before seen in the NPS. Times have changed, staff has changed and understanding and appreciation has changed as well. Maybe 50 years from now we will finally grasp the importance of the Civil War in American life.

¹ National Park Service, Interpretation at Civil War Sites, A Report to Congress, March 2000. p. 44.

Part 1. Foundation

Purpose and Significance

Fort Moultrie is administered as a unit of Fort Sumter National Monument. It does not have separate legislation and was acquired under the authority of the Historic Sites Act. The significance of Fort Moultrie is rich in history spanning over 200 years.

During the period 1776 - 1809, three forts were constructed on the western end of Sullivan's Island. This site was close to the main shipping channel and entrance to Charleston Harbor. It provided an ideal location from which to defend Charleston Harbor. Charleston Harbor was an important economic port throughout its early history and well into the early years of the young United States and continues to be a major seaport today.

The first fort was a simple palmetto log structure that was the scene of a significant Revolutionary War battle on June 28, 1776. Patriot forces under Colonel William Moultrie decisively repulsed a British invasion fleet sent to occupy Charleston. This engagement marked a major victory for the new "Americans" in the Revolutionary War. After the war, the fort succumbed to storms and civilians in search of building materials.

The second and third forts, both named for Colonel Moultrie, were units respectively of the nation's first and second coastal defense systems. The second fort was destroyed in the Great Hurricane of 1804. The third fort survived to become the nucleus of a much larger military reservation and remained an active post until 1947. The significance of this fort, its detached gun batteries and adjacent structures, is derived from the unique opportunity to interpret the development of the seacoast defense from 1776 to the end of World War II, and from Fort Moultrie's important role in the Civil War.

Fort Moultrie repeated its protection of Charleston Harbor during the War of 1812 and maintained a steady guard and coastal defense station of Charleston's port through the Civil War, World War I and World War II. After the opening shot was fired from Fort Johnson, Fort Moultrie opened fire on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. The fort remained a significant Confederate stronghold during the Civil War. Fort Moultrie continued to be a part of military history for over 80 additional years serving finally as the Harbor Entrance Control Post/Harbor Defense Command Post. Following World War II, Fort Moultrie was decommissioned, and then closed in 1947. The historic life saving station is located one mile from the fort and serves as the park maintenance and housing facility.

Fort Moultrie was transferred to the State of South Carolina for designation as a state park. However, plans never materialized and the fort fell into disrepair. On

September 7, 1960 the State of South Carolina conveyed Fort Moultrie back to the United States. The National Park Service accepted jurisdiction under authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the Historical Sites Act of 1935.

Park significance statements summarize the essence of the park's importance to our natural and cultural heritage. They describe the distinctiveness of the combined resources in the park including the natural, cultural, scientific, recreational, spiritual and other values.

Fort Moultrie is the site of the first patriot defeat of the British navy in the Revolutionary War and contributed to British reluctance to invade the South.

Fort Moultrie served as the Charleston operational headquarters for the Confederate Army during the opening battle of the Civil War and as a key installation during the Siege of Charleston.

Fort Moultrie is the only NPS site that preserves elements of each significant period of American seacoast defenses from 1776 to 1947.

In 1990, the park acquired 1.22 acres of US Coast Guard property it had leased since 1971 to use as a maintenance and quarters facility. This property included the historic Life Saving Station, now used as park housing. The Life Station provided service to mariners, swimmers and locals from the late 19th century to the mid 20th century. In 2000, the historic light house was declared excess property and the park hopes to acquire the light in the near future. There are no plans to interpret the Coast Guard area at this time.

Themes

Interpretive themes communicate park significance. They embody the park's stories. Theme statements are the key ideas through which the park's resource values are conveyed to the public. These statements connect park resources to the larger processes, systems, ideas and values of which they are a part. The following themes and theme topics are derived from the National Park Service 1996 Thematic Framework and structured in terms of the park's purpose.

Themes Introduction

When the American Revolution broke out in 1776, Charleston was the largest city and economic center south of Philadelphia. A bustling seaport with connections to Europe, Africa and the West Indies, Charleston's diverse population reflected its international ties. As the major port of entry of enslaved Africans into North America, by 1708 Africans made up the majority of South Carolina's population.

Because of its strategic location overlooking the main shipping channel, from earliest settlement times the western end of Sullivan's Island served as a signal station to warn of approaching enemy ships. The western end of the island also served as the site of quarantine stations for newly arriving immigrants, both enslaved and free.

In 1776 the construction of the palmetto log fort that would eventually become the first Fort Moultrie began the story of 171 years (1776-1947) of fortification on this site.

Theme I: Peopling Places/Transforming the Environment

The geography of Charleston Harbor and the coastal lowlands determined settlement patterns and the location of defensive positions. Relying on international markets, the plantation system of agriculture was dependent on enslaved labor and resulted in Charleston becoming the main port of entry for Africans into North America.

To prevent the spread of disease, many captive Africans and other immigrants served a period of quarantine on Sullivan's Island in the vicinity of Fort Moultrie. After 1791 the island became increasingly popular as a summer retreat from the diseases and heat of the city and inland plantations.

As the city of Charleston developed, fortifications were built to protect commerce and the populace. The fort on Sullivan's Island (later called Fort Moultrie) was built in response to a British naval threat early during the Revolutionary War. Constructed of available coast materials, sand and Palmetto trees, the fort withstood large British canon enabling William Moultrie and the men of the 2nd Carolina Infantry to repulse the assault on June 28, 1776.

As a barrier island Sullivan's Island has long faced the forces of erosion from ocean currents. In the 1830's a network of breakwaters known as Bowman's jetty was constructed to trap sand and stabilize the beach. The construction of harbor jetties in the 1880s redirected the ship channel and interrupted the natural southward flow of sand along the coast.

People associated with Fort Moultrie include Revolutionary War heroes William Moultrie, Thomas Sumter, Francis Marion, and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. Civil War notables include Robert Anderson, Abner Doubleday, Braxton Bragg, William T. Sherman, and P.G.T. Beauregard. In 1933 George C. Marshall was stationed briefly at Fort Moultrie. Edgar Allan Poe spent 1828 stationed at the fort and used the Island as a setting for several of his stories. Seminole leader Osceola spent a month imprisoned at the fort before he died in January 1838.

Fort Moultrie trained troops for the Spanish American War. Concrete batteries were built along the length of the island and the fort continued as a training ground during WWI and WWII. It also served as one of the first WAC facilities.

Fort Moultrie played an important role in the protection of Charleston's harbor and in the Nation's coastal defense systems. The military presence on the island lasted from 1776 until 1947, and continues today with SPAWARS.

Theme II: Developing the American Economy/ Shaping the Political Landscape/ Creating Social Institutions and Movements

The importance of the largest seaport on the southeastern Atlantic Coast and Charleston's strategic location was not underestimated by the U.S. Congress or the War Department for the Nation's defense. Up until the Civil War, the economy of South Carolina was based on plantation agriculture and slave labor. The huge profits from rice and cotton created a small class of elite planters who dominated South Carolina's social, political and economic life. The presence of Fort Moultrie served to protect the interests of an important commercial center and seaport.

On the brink of Secession and Civil War, the U.S. Army maintained Fort Moultrie as their headquarters. Major Robert Anderson moved the forces to Fort Sumter on December 26, 1860 to protect them, touching off ever quickening events that led to the Civil War. On December 27, 1860 South Carolina troops occupied Fort Moultrie which would serve as one of the main batteries in the attack on Fort Sumter April 12 -14, 1861 opening the American Civil War.

Events at Fort Moultrie were influenced by currents sweeping the state, regional and national scenes. On April 12, 1861 when the Civil War finally exploded in Charleston Harbor, it was the result of a half-century of growing sectionalism and

escalating crises. Because its economy had long depended on enslaved labor, South Carolina was the first state to secede when this way of life was threatened.

Fort Moultrie trained troops for the Spanish American war and saw the fort complete batteries as the fort was prepared again to defend the shores. It continued as a training ground for WWI and WWII. It also served as one of the first WAC facilities.

Theme III: Expanding Science and Technology

Fort Moultrie's 1809 brick walls, its earth-covered concrete ammunition storage rooms built after the Civil War, the later Endicott system of harbor defense, and the WWII Harbor Entrance Command/Control Post all illustrate changes in technology.

One of the major technological breakthroughs of the 19th century was the introduction of rifled artillery during the Civil War. These weapons proved that large brick and masonry fortifications such as Fort Moultrie were obsolete. Rifled artillery was also used against the city of Charleston from distances of more than four miles away during the Siege of Charleston 1863 -1865. Overall strategy changed as a result of the new weaponry.

Fort Moultrie is restored to reflect the advances in military and naval engineering and ordnance, clearly marking the development of seacoast defense from 1776 to 1947.

Management Goals

Park management has established the following goals in the 1998 General Management Plan:

- The Park contributes to the knowledge of cultural resources and associated values, and bases management decisions on scholarly and scientific information.
- Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of facilities, services and appropriate recreational opportunities.
- Visitors are greeted by NPS personnel and have adequate facilities to provide shelter, restrooms and interpretive facilities.
- Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the purpose and significance of Fort Moultrie.

- Fort Moultrie National Historic Park uses best management practices, systems, and technologies to accomplish its mission.
- Fort Moultrie National Historic Park increases its managerial capabilities through initiatives and support from other agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Desired Visitor Experience

- Visitors are oriented to the resource and facilities through contemporary means. They are introduced to the compelling stories and interact with park staff.
- Visitors are greeted by NPS personnel and have adequate facilities to provide shelter, restrooms and interpretive facilities.
- Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the purpose and significance of Fort Moultrie. Visitors are inspired by the significance of Fort Moultrie and understand it's role in the Revolutionary War, Civil War and World Wars.
- The fort is interpreted as an outdoor museum reflecting four periods of military history. Outdoor interpretive exhibits convey the compelling story and are well maintained, reflecting current exhibit standards.

Issues and Influences Affecting Interpretation

1. Community Involvement and Partnership at Fort Moultrie has been very limited. The park plans on continuing its efforts to develop a friends group. A charter has been established for the Fort Moultrie/Fort Sumter Trust.
2. Homeland security has become a major issue since the events of 9/11/2001. Funding for interpretation and visitor services has been affected through national assessments preventing the division from filling vacant positions.
3. Increased visitation is expected at Fort Moultrie over the next five to ten years. Efforts have been expanded to provide curriculum based education programs for SC schools. Visitation has been steady over the last five years averaging 100,000 visitors a year. A minimal 25% increase is expected over the next five to ten years as traveling patterns continue to make day trip destinations more popular.

4. The park recognizes the Internet and influence of World Wide Web. The website for all Fort Sumter group parks will be updated in 2003 in the new format. It will be expanded and allow Internet users access to exhibits currently on display as well as additional information and research that was completed in preparation for the opening of the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center. All documents and programs will soon be available on our websites increasing information and promotion of the sites that make up Fort Sumter Group through the Synthesis Project.
5. Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island transportation issues continue to sometimes impede visitor access to the sites. Bridge construction, the Sullivan's Island draw bridge and the phenomenal growth of the area, in Mt. Pleasant particularly, have increased travel time to get to the sites for school groups and commercial tour groups. Additionally Sullivan's Island does not want commercial boat transportation from Sullivan's Island to Fort Sumter or the downtown Charleston area.
6. School group funding has been an issue for many years. Area schools do not have adequate funding for transportation to our sites. The park has sought outside funding for low income area and special needs schools but sources have been drying up as the cost of fuel and liability increases.
7. Accessibility to historic areas continues to be an issue for many physically impaired visitors. The aging population of America contributes to concerns as well. Uneven and eroding surfaces challenge even physically able visitors.
8. The park is not looking forward to the acquisition of additional federal lands within its boundaries. Local residents and activist groups have mentioned the National Park Service when trying to preserve or prevent growth to some areas in and around the harbor. Some of these areas do continue or add to the story at Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter but the park's lack of funding and interest in acquiring new areas has suppressed greater interest to a degree.
9. Entrance or interpretive activity fees have been an issue as the NPS continues to find funding for backlogged maintenance projects. Fort Moultrie has collected an entrance fee since 1997. Initial fee collection funding was provided but each year has been cut back to allow backlogged maintenance projects more funding. These fees are generally available for contracted services only. Interpretive services have been suffering as more park demands for projects require larger funding allocations.

10. Concession fees have allowed the parks to improve exhibit areas and continue to provide excellent sources for non personal interpretive services as staffing erodes. The park has expended approximately 10% of its fee money for collection of fees. Other fees have been explored but increasing fees is not appealing to staff or the public.
11. Funding for the division and the park continues to erode. Staffing is now 98% of the budget leaving few funds for training, supplies and materials and printed materials. Eastern National, a park cooperating association has provided funding for divisional needs and training. In the future Eastern may be asked to assist with fee collection. Eastern is also being requested to assist with funding a pilot program of recorded tours presented through state of the arts electronic devices.
12. Special park uses have increased by 274% since 1998. the opening of Liberty Square has provided green space for special permits including performing arts, demonstrations and events. Fort Moultrie has seen an increase in request for the use of the auditorium for town meetings, political debates and graduations. These uses are consistent with community outreach programs.
13. Limited staffing has necessitated large employment of park volunteers. Increased volunteer activity now provides consistent coverage of information desks at the four sites, Monday through Friday mornings. Volunteers provide orientation on tour boats, and information services at the three other sites. Park staff provides most of the site coverage on weekends, since few volunteers are available.
14. Increased interest in the sites has produced overwhelming interest in the website. In 2002 Fort Sumter Group was included in the Synthesis Project. This project will allow the park to put all of its important documents, maps and photos on the web allowing greater information services to the public. Expanded services will provide virtual tours of all of the sites.

Visitor Profiles

The following demographic assessment of the Charleston area was taken primarily from the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce's 2000 Visitor Inquiry Survey Results, Visitor Industry Impact Overview and 2002 visitor attraction counts. This is the last year statistics are available.

The impact of the visitor industry in the Charleston metropolitan area (Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties) is \$4.7 billion annually with an estimated 4.3 million visitors for 2002. Using the most recent figures available, Charleston was ranked in 1995 by *Conde Nast Traveler* as among the top twenty destinations in the world. Primary reasons for visiting the Charleston area are its

history and variety of historic sites. Residents from South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Ohio, New York, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Michigan, and New Jersey represent the top ten origin states.

The Charleston metro area serves more than 92,000 students within 128 public schools, and 25 private and parochial schools. The area is served by five colleges and universities.

These visitation figures do not include those for a three-part attraction destination in downtown Charleston which opened after the 2000 survey was conducted. This three-part attraction includes the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center, the South Carolina Aquarium and the IMAX Theater (collectively known as Liberty Square or Aquarium Wharf). During the first full year of the site's use, visitation for Liberty Square totaled approximately 785,000. Of these visitors the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center received 158,000.

Consideration should also be given to those persons who make use of resources and programs without actually visiting the site. This is particularly true of persons using electronic (Internet) access. In Calendar Year 2002 the Fort Sumter Group websites received 281,305 "virtual visitors," a 9 % increase over CY 2000 (base year).

Visitation to Fort Moultrie declined during the period 1998 – 1999 due to the Visitor Center closure for roof replacement. Since that time visitation has never reached previous levels (97,420 in 1997). Visitation has remained stable over the following years currently 88, 230 in 2002. This most likely is due to economic influences and recent world developments.

Existing Interpretive Conditions

Highway signs direct visitors to the parking area of the Fort Moultrie Visitor Center. Upon arriving, visitors have the choice of going directly to the visitor center or touring the adjacent grounds. Facilities available nearby include a picnic area, park dock (available for fishing) and the gravesite of William Moultrie. Fort Moultrie became an entrance fee site in 2004. The fee is \$3.00 per adult, \$5.00 per family, children under 16 are free.

Those going to the visitor center may proceed to the observation deck on top of the building for a view of Charleston, its harbor and the surrounding area. Visitors who choose to enter the building are greeted by an employee or volunteer as they enter. The visitor then has three main interpretive activities: viewing the museum exhibits, watching the 22-minute movie or touring the fort.

The 1999 Fort Moultrie Visitor Center renovation allowed the park to update the museum exhibits. The project began in 2000 and the remaining exhibits are to be installed in FY 2004. When completed, the exhibits will focus on the entire period

of Fort Moultrie's history and include freestanding islands, wall-mounted exhibits, laser disk presentations and space for temporary exhibits. These exhibits will provide visitors with the compelling stories of Fort Moultrie and the important role it has played throughout its 171 year history.

Adjacent to the main exhibit area, and leading to the auditorium, is the cooperating association bookstore and information desk. Available for purchase are a wide variety of educational and interpretive items related to the park. Inside the auditorium, the park's movie is played every 30 minutes providing an orientation to the history of the site. Ranger staff is made available to give site orientation and safety messages to groups and visitors inside the auditorium. The visitor safety message is important to the park to assure the visitor is aware of uneven surfaces and other obstacles. The park developed and distributes an insert entitled "History Can Hurt" to promote safety.

School groups are generally exempted to encourage visitation. Home schoolers are becoming an increasing population and several times a year visit the site. The park has developed a Junior Ranger program for Elementary School children that works well with this group since the numbers generally are under ten children.

Leaving the visitor center, visitors are able to tour Fort Moultrie and Battery Jasper at their own pace, and have the option of visiting areas adjacent to the fort such as Sullivan's Island beach.

Interpretive programs are offered daily once in the morning and once in the afternoon if staff is available. These programs include guided tours, demonstrations, orientation talks and safety messages. Programs are offered to individuals and groups (such as school, scout, senior, tour) depending on the season and staffing levels. Employees also provide roving interpretation as a supplement to formal interpretation. Interpretive programs are presented seven to ten times a week depending on visitor demand and available staffing. School programs require reservations.

Publications currently available include the park folder and seven site bulletins. In 2001 the park updated its Unigrid folder ensuring the compelling stories were included. An additional site bulletin is awaiting funds for publishing. Brochures and pamphlets of other parks sites and local attractions including state parks are also made available to assist visitors in planning their stay in the Charleston area.

Each June the park hosts Carolina Day programs in commemoration of the Revolutionary battle that took place in 1776. Three to four times a year other speakers are invited to present special programs related to the fort history.

Education programs are being developed with teachers to assure curriculum standards are met. Fort Moultrie's long history is an ideal for repeat lessons and visits. Additionally, vocational schools visit annually to include history and preservation elements that are practiced and applied to the site. Hands-on volunteer experiences also encourage preservation education.

Living history encampments enhance education and connection with the visitor. Demonstrators are invited regularly to camp on grounds demonstrating soldier life and weapons demonstrations. These events require are labor intensive and require skilled personnel with good planning. The benefits for the public, however is a memorable visit and excellent experience.

Employee and interpretive development programs have been available on the internet, but are under utilized by park staff due to lack of time and connectivity problems. Formal training lacks funding though mentoring efforts in-house allows one-on-one interpretive training. Staff is more interested in attending professional seminars highlighting the latest scholarship.

The division's computers are running on Windows 95 and 98. The government standard is now Windows XP. The park has installed a T 1 line but outlying parks will still have no direct hook-up.

Part 2. Future Interpretive Programs

Personal Services

Future interpretive programs are severely limited due to staff shortages. Grants have been sought to provide staff but have been generally unsuccessful. At this writing only school programs with reservations and two daily talks are expected to continue. A Fort Moultrie evening lecture series was developed in 2003 but the six speaker schedule was cut to two with staff shortages.

Non-personal Services

Fort Moultrie has waysides, the visitor center and a brochure with a walking tour. These interpretive services are supplemented with audio installed in some waysides and exhibits. The visitor center continues to improve with new exhibits. Temporary exhibits are utilized now only when necessary or to celebrate a particular event in history. The Fort Moultrie movie continues to be an excellent introduction to the site. There are seven site bulletins available to visitors covering various topics in greater detail. An additional site bulletin is nearly completed and will be ready for publishing when funding becomes available.

Partnerships

In 2000 a few concerned citizens approached the park to set up a Friends group. The Fort Moultrie/Fort Sumter Trust received 501C3 status in early 2002. The Trust has been slow to gather membership and the little money the Trust has received has been returned to the park for opening ceremonies at Liberty Square.

The Trust is having a difficult time finding a chairperson. There are a few non-Charleston natives that keep the organization together. These few members are hoping to connect with a local person to head the Trust.

Unilever and WalMart have partnered successfully at all three sites (Fort Moultrie, Fort Sumter and Charles Pinckney). These companies work together to partner with National Park Sites throughout the country. At Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter benches made from recycled materials have been built and donated by the partner companies and park volunteers. Plastic lumber has been provided for bench repairs on an as needed basis. Clear Seas Communications, Inc. is our contact for these services.

Clear Seas Communications, Inc. is a local public relations firm and one of the strongest Friends the sites have partnered with. Numerous donations of planning time for events and making arrangements for caterers and press coverage have been donated for many park events.

Sullivan's Island Police and Fire Departments provide law enforcement and fire services at no cost to Fort Moultrie. The police provide protection of resources and regular patrols for security. The Fire Department provides EMT services, has taught staff CPR and First Aid and checks alarms and fire extinguishers annually. Isle of Palms provides dispatch service for all emergencies. One NPS Law Enforcement officer coordinates cooperative activities.

The town of Mount Pleasant has been very generous allowing the use of their tents for special events held Fort Moultrie and Charles Pinckney. The town has also provided funding for cultural programs.

The park has also partnered with Student Conservation Association (SCA) since 2001. The park has received two to three interns to provide assistance at Liberty Square and Fort Sumter during the core season of June 1 – August 10. Ford Motor Company and National Park Foundation (NPF) also partner with SCA. These interns provide spot coverage from time to time at Fort Moultrie and Charles Pinckney but the majority of their time is spent riding the tour-boats from Liberty Square.

Library and Collection Needs

All items and materials should be pertinent and relevant to Fort Moultrie 1776-1947. However, items concerning Fort Moultrie as a result of a natural disaster (hurricane, earthquake, etc.) and other significant (Bicentennial, etc.) events should be included. The library is located in the Visitor Center.

Acquisition of materials and recent publications regarding building the fortifications, civilian populations and the affects of the military community are important to interpreting the site.

Library Needs:

Books

- One set each of:
 - ❖ *Supplement to the Official Records*
 - ❖ *Confederate Veteran Magazine*
 - ❖ *Southern Historical Society Papers*
- Single or multiple volumes on the history of Fort Moultrie
- Pertinent cultural and military events in the Charleston area (Revolutionary War, Nullification Crisis, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and the years of peace between these wars)
- Magazines, newspapers, articles, etc.

Audio-visual

- Copies of photos, illustrations, art (sketches, drawings, paintings, etc.)
- Copies of film, video, or other visual media.
- Copies of oral histories (example: interview with soldier stationed at the fort),
- Broadcasts, interviews, etc.
- Microfilm copies of military and civilian documents.

Collection Needs:

- First edition of the above listed book needs.
- Original above listed Audio-visual items.

Staff Needs:

- Curatorial needs for donated and/or purchased original objects or artifacts.
- Grant money for students and/or volunteers to transcribe documents, place in useable format for staff and

researchers; produce a finding aid for the library research files, and related needs.

Supplies and Materials:

- Curatorial storage, treatment, etc. of objects or artifacts
- Storage cabinets for microfilm
- Scanner
- Desktop computer to maintain library records and photo files.
The current computer is obsolete for these purposes.

Research Needs

All items/materials should be pertinent and relevant to Fort Moultrie 1776-1947. However, items concerning the fort as a result of a natural disaster (hurricane, earthquake, etc.) and other significant events (1976 Bicentennial, etc.) should be included.

Current scholarship has not provided for research of why Fort Moultrie continued to receive Federal funding during periods of political strife between Northern and Southern issues as the chasm began to divide the states economically, politically and socially, slavery and the fort, the use of African Americans as craftsmen and the effects of the military on civilian life on the island from 1776 – 1947.

The primary research need is for documents (reports, letters-official & private, diaries, journals, accounts, memoirs, reminiscences, etc.), and audio-visual items (photos, illustration, drawings, etc.) addressing the construction, maintenance, and repair of Fort Moultrie in public or private repositories and/or in private ownership.

Funding needs include:

- Notebook computer for research trips to the National Archives, US Army Military History Institute, United States Military Academy, New York Historical Society, Southern Historical Society Collections, South Carolina Historical Society, and other similar repositories containing materials relevant to Fort Sumter.
- Staff (college interns, VIPs, etc) to organize, file, transcribe, etc. the documents and/or visual media copied.
- Travel money for local and long distance to repositories for record retrieval.

Staffing Needs

Current Conditions

Staff is as follows:

Chief of Visitor Services	GS 0025 – 12	1.0 FTE
Assistant Chief of Visitor Services	GS 0025 – 11	1.0 FTE
Lead Ranger Fort Moultrie	GS 0025 – 9	1.0 FTE
Lead Ranger Fort Sumter	GS 0025 – 9	1.0 FTE
Lead Ranger Charles Pinckney	GS 0025 – 9	1.0 FTE
Back up Ranger	GS 0025 – 9	1.0 FTE
Education Specialist	GS 0000 – 11	1.0 FTE
Historian	GS 0000 – 11	1.0 FTE
4.0 Park Guides	GS 0090 – 5	3.0 FTE
2 - .5 Park Guides (one fee, one seasonal)	GS 0090 – 4	1.0 FTE
Total FTE		13.0

Staffing for the Fort Sumter Group Parks is managed by sharing staff at all four sites. Minimal staffing is provided at Charles Pinckney and Fort Moultrie. Fort Moultrie requires two employees to open and close the facility in a timely manner. Volunteers supplement staff, providing information services at visitor contact stations and on the tour boat.

Fort Moultrie is minimally staffed with two employees. Generally the Lead Ranger and a Park Guide provide staffing backed by volunteers for the seven-day operation. The back up Ranger provides coverage for two days. Visitation is approximately 80,000 - 90,000 a year with numerous school and senior groups through nine of 12 months a year. Staffing guidelines for visitor safety for the fort area is one ranger per 50 visitors. This ratio is rarely achieved.

In FY 1999 the division reorganized to allow higher staffing levels by utilizing visitor use assistants to replace vacant ranger positions. Generally, for every interpretive ranger position the park could employ 1.5 visitor use assistants. This change brought staffing levels closer to minimum levels. Due to rising personnel costs this base has continued to erode. Two employees on staff were converted to the positions of education specialist and assistant chief of visitor services in FY 2000 to assist with operations. In 2002, all visitor use assistants were converted to park guides to better address interpretive division needs.

Current staffing provides less than minimal staff at four sites. The Charles Pinckney site has the lowest visitation and is regularly staffed with only the lead ranger. Volunteers supplement on most days. Two additional Park Guides are needed to provide seven-day coverage. The backup ranger serves as lead for

two days and when the lead is on leave. The Assistant Chief, Historian and Education Specialist serve as back-up for large groups and during severe staff shortages. Severe staffing shortages are now occurring weekly requiring one or more specialists to attend to front-line duties two to three days a week.

DESIRED FUTURE STAFFING

Four sites consisting of Liberty Square (LS), Charles Pinckney NHS (CHPI), Fort Moultrie (FOMO), Fort Sumter National Monument (FOSU) for a seven day operation, extended hours at FOSU from Easter through Labor Day:

Chief	GS 0025 12	1.0 FTE
Assistant Chief (LS)	GS 0025 11	1.0 FTE
Historian	GS 11	1.0 FTE
Research Assistant	GS 5/7	.8 FTE
Education Specialist	GS 0000 11	1.0 FTE
Education Assistant	GS 0000 5/7	.8 FTE
Park Ranger (LS)	GS 0025 9	1.0 FTE
Park Ranger (FOMO)	GS 0025 9	1.0 FTE
Park Ranger (FOSU)	GS 0025 9	1.0 FTE
Park Ranger (CHPI)	GS 0025 9	1.0 FTE
Park Ranger (Back-up)	GS 0025 9	1.0 FTE
Park Guide LS	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide LS	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide LS/FOSU	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide CHPI	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide CHPI	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide FOSU	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide FOSU	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide FOMO	GS 5	1.0 FTE
Park Guide FOMO	GS 5	1.0 FTE

TOTAL 19.5 FTE

Discussion is underway for an additional staffed departure point. If it is added, an additional Park Ranger GS 0025 and two Park guides would be necessary to provide coverage seven days a week for a total of 3.0 FTE's

In addition to paid staff, the site will continue its development of a strong volunteer program to complement the permanent staff. Volunteers enhance the special topic programs and demonstrations and provide assistance in other areas of visitor services. Furthermore, a successful volunteer program will increase community awareness of the site and deliver a higher level and greater variation of interpretive programming.

Interpretive Program Costs

Interpretive program costs for Interpretation and Visitor Services Division are significantly out of balance from the recommended ratios of 90% for personnel and 10% for supplies and materials. This difference is offset by use of cooperating association donated funds to supply much of our needed interpretive materials.

Total interpretive funds allocated in early FY 2003 was \$529,000 by the close of the fiscal year the amount had shrunk to \$511,000. Of that funding \$495,000 was spent on personnel leaving \$16,000 for supplies and materials, training and travel needs. Increasingly the needs for interpretative tools is being funded through the donations account and Eastern National. Costs for funding interpretive exhibits other than ONPS include cyclic, concession and donation accounts.

Implementation Plan

The current staffing crisis is overwhelming and requires extensive planning to implement an annual interpretive plan. Goals are set early in the fiscal year to provide staff development and extended visitor services. The loss of two employees early in the FY 2003 required restructuring annual goals and eliminating training, special interpretive programs and scaling back general services.

The future of interpretation at Fort Moultrie is to add non-personal services to continue to assist with visitor needs. This includes recording devices to allow visitors to rent a machine to accompany them through the fort areas and explain areas and provide specific safety messages for specific areas. Three to four additional site bulletins need to be written and published. Existing waysides need to be updated and sound devices removed and upgraded with state of the art equipment that will stand up to the sea air elements.

Volunteers have also been recruited and provide morning coverage of the Fort Moultrie visitor center desk five days a week. Afternoon coverage is spotty at best. Efforts are continuous to recruit and retain more. Eastern National is also providing more opening and closing services at sites when necessary.

Some of the projects that will be installed in 2004 are:

Complete Exhibits at Fort Moultrie

Install African American Exhibit at Fort Moultrie

Additional Items:

Item	Target date
Complete Electric Maps	12/2004

Edit site bulletin on HECF	12/2004
Edit site bulletin Hunley	12/2004
Edit site bulletin Flags	12/2004
Edit site bulletin Poe	12/2004
War for Freedom Project	6/2005
FOMO sandbags	12/2003
Synthesis Project	12/2003
Web work	on-going
Beech Sweep	annual
Reach for Fun	annual
Carolina Day program	annual
Investigate cannon carriage construction	12/2004
Rebuild artillery boxes	12/2004
In house training for seasonal staff	annual
Research trip to DC	annual
Create gun gin	12/2004
Supervision of staff and programs	on-going
Special Program CHPI	annual
CPR/First Aid	annual
Division Staff Meeting	annual
Special Programs LS	annual

FY 2004 VISITOR SERVICES EVENTS

February	
CHPI	Black History Month Programs every weekend
April	
FOSU	"The First Shot" - Program to be determined due to Hunley burial.
June	
FOMO	"The Battle of Fort Sullivan"
July	
LS	Viewing Fire works
FOMO	African American Gullah Program
September	
CHPI	INS ceremony "A celebration of the Constitution"

Planning Team

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FORT SUMTER GROUP**

Listed in alphabetical order:

Gary Alexander, Park Guide
Michael Allen, Education Specialist
Kevin Bates, Eastern National Unit Manager
Dennis Birr, Park Guide
Erin Cann, Assistant Eastern National Unit Manager
Dawn Davis, Assistant Chief of Visitor Services
Mark Davis, Lead Park Ranger, Fort Moultrie
Richard Hatcher, Historian
Chris Mekow, Park Guide
Bill Martin, Lead Park Ranger, Charles Pinckney NHS
Fran Norton, Chief of Visitor Services
Alex Rivera, Park Guide
Carlin Timmons, Park Ranger
John Tucker, Superintendent
Melissa Tynes, Park Ranger

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE**

John Beck, Resource Education Specialist/Planner